



# WILDERNESS RECORD

Proceedings of the California Wilderness Coalition

February 1997

## Proposed Headwaters trade troubles activists Public lands offered for swap could hinder future wilderness acquisitions

By John Moore

After years of prodding by environmentalists, the federal and state governments have agreed to acquire the contested Headwaters Grove and nearby forest lands in Humboldt County, a total of 7,000 acres, for about \$380 million. Since both governments want to spend as little cash as possible, the federal government is offering to trade the landowner, Maxxam Corporation, a federally-owned oil field (worth perhaps \$200 million), Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, and other properties. The state of California is offering to trade Latour State Forest in Shasta County as well as miscellaneous public lands.

Although acquiring the Headwaters lands is undoubtedly a noble goal, numerous activists living near the public lands being offered in trade would strongly prefer that the Headwaters lands be purchased instead.

Activists assert that some lands, like the 9,000-acre Latour State Forest, are too valuable to be traded away. Latour State Forest, though it is roaded and primarily managed for timber production, still has some intact old-growth forest and valuable wildlife habitat. The University of California at Berkeley has conducted several wildlife research projects there.

The federal government is offering 3,000 acres of BLM lands in Humboldt County and 17,000 acres of national forest lands in the Sierra Nevada (7,000 acres in the Eldorado national forest, 2,000 in the Plumas national forest, 7,000 in the Stanislaus national forest, and 1,000 in the Tahoe national forest). These lands are mostly isolated from other federal holdings, and most of their forests have been disturbed. However, a few of these tracts have old-growth forest and sensitive species habitat, and many activists contend that these exceptional tracts should be retained in public ownership.

Concerned activists prefer that the offered lands be used to acquire crucial private inholdings in nearby

national forests and BLM areas. For example, the BLM Ukiah District Resource Advisory Council (an advisory body including conservationists, loggers, ranchers, miners, and other interests) recently voted unanimously to oppose the trading of the Humboldt County BLM parcels, since these properties were to be traded to acquire ecologically critical lands in the King Range National Conservation Area and other wild lands.

The total dollar value of federal lands finally included in the trade (which may end up being considerably less than the 20,000 acres offered) will amount to only \$30 million. Concerned activists reason that the Headwaters lands are such an outstanding special case that an appropriation of \$30 million can be obtained to help acquire them. These activists know from long experience that funds cannot be obtained to purchase the less-known private lands they want acquired.

Land trades are a time-consuming and frustrating way to acquire private lands, but they are the only feasible alternative if appropriations cannot be obtained. Land management agencies are understandably reluctant to trade away land; persuading them to give up land often requires lengthy campaigns. Trading away thousands of acres to acquire Headwaters lands would significantly reduce the agencies' stock of lands they are willing to trade.

Land trades are important to achieving environmental goals for public lands. Many crucial inholdings in northern California national forests have been acquired

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Future land acquisitions in the Castle Peak Roadless Area in the Tahoe National Forest could be jeopardized indirectly by the proposed Headwaters trade. Photo by Tim Palmer

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*...to promote throughout the State of California the preservation of wild lands as legally designated wilderness areas by carrying on an educational program concerning the value of wilderness and how it may best be used and preserved in the public interest, by making and encouraging scientific studies concerning wilderness, and by enlisting public interest and cooperation in protecting existing or potential wilderness areas.*

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## Coalition News

### Monthly Report

It's the end of January, but it feels like spring. It's sunny, flowers are opening, and a Cooper's hawk is chasing pigeons. Near our office, some trees are showing new leaves and a few almonds are blooming. They've been fooled by the warm tropical rains that have flooded so much of the state.

We finally did get a hard freeze in Davis, but not until after the new year. Twice in two decades my tomatoes have survived until the first week of December; this year they were alive in January. Global warming?

But the rain is the big story. Not that it has been continually stormy. There have been a number of balmy days like today. The rain has been coming in equatorial bursts, with breaks between storms.

My favorite quote was from a man gazing at his flooded home: "They said 1986 was the 100-year flood. Then the 100-year flood starting coming every three years. Now it's coming every three days."

The rain was especially hard on mountain highways and bridges. While Highway 50 gets much attention for the slides which are keeping it closed most of the winter, there are other problems as well. Roads in the Quincy area remain obstructed, and I've heard that a bridge washout on Highway 4 (Ebbetts Pass) will keep it closed for a year.

But the most spectacular flood occurred in the Walker River Canyon along US 395 north of Sonora Junction. A CalTrans engineer flying over the canyon reported that "there is no sign that the highway ever existed." Early estimates involve \$22 million in costs and repairs by October.

Which brings me to the point of this digression. Maybe we shouldn't put highways back everywhere they used to be. There's an alternative to US 395 to the east. How about moving the highway and joining the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness with the Sweetwater Roadless Area?

We've built our dams, cities, and highways in a state prone to immense earthquakes, monumental floods, and

calamitous fires. It's getting more and more expensive to put civilization back into areas inclined to suffer "natural disasters." It's time to stop constructing dams—and to remove some—on earthquake faults, laying roads in river canyons, and erecting homes on brushy hillsides. And with population reduction a critical element, we need to start designing *with* nature, not against her.

Closer to home I've been dealing with computer disasters. Our aging fleet of Macintoshes provides us with new challenges. Why did my computer suddenly crash? (because you didn't backup your work—it knows!) Why does our fax modem suddenly stop working on one computer but is fine on another? (still puzzling over this one).

Now I'm shopping to replace our ancient LaserWriter II NTX. A decade ago it was the cream of the crop. Wendy and I, along with an attorney next door, each put up a grand to buy the basic machine. After doing a favor for Apple, they gave us an NTX upgrade board—the printer at that time retailed for more than \$4,000.

But hundreds of thousands of copies later, it is tired. Our innovative staff eked out a few more months of life by stacking environmental impact statements to weight down a sprung latch. It has been a great source of frustration recently, and the daily hauling of my printer from home is not a solution.

Finally, on page 7 there is a request for donations to the Judi Bari Trust Fund. Judi, a courageous environmentalist seriously injured by a bomb placed in her car, now is suffering from terminal cancer. We environmentalists are a large family (you can tell by the way we argue with each other), and one of our members needs our support. Please help if you can.

**By Jim Eaton**

## End-of-Year Report, Part II

Last month we published a summary of the California Wilderness Coalition's work on national forests. This month we are presenting a report on our work in Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service and other public lands issues.

For those interested in our financial standing, we have included a financial statement on page 4.

### National Park Service

CWC urged Congress to appropriate adequate funds for the National Park Service to conduct necessary programs, expand their landbase, and protect habitat.

### Individual national park work

**Channel Islands National Park:** We opposed continued livestock grazing and game farming on Santa Rosa Island. The corporation that sold the land to the National Park Service several years ago continues to graze commercial livestock on the island and maintain a non-native deer and elk herd so that they can sell hunting permits. These non-native ungulates are causing so much ecological harm that state water officials asked the agency to prepare an environmental impact statement to examine the damage caused by these activities.

**Mojave National Preserve:** CWC protested the Interior Appropriation Bill's allocation of a mere dollar to the preserve for fiscal year 1996 and praised President Clinton for vetoing the measure. With dozens of other groups, wrote President Clinton urging him to veto any further attempts to undermine the preserve.

### Sequoia National Park:

The Coalition worked with the High Sierra Hikers Association to increase attendance at the National Park Service's Sacramento meeting on the Sequoia National Park Wilderness Plan. CWC and the Hikers Association feared that pro-development interests may dominate the meeting. CWC urged the Park Service to maximize protection for the park's wilderness while still providing for the legitimate recreational needs of hikers, equestrians, and other backcountry users.

We also urged the Park Service to pressure the Inyo National Forest to prevent livestock from trespassing into the park from adjacent Forest Service lands.

### Bureau of Land Management

CWC staffers met with BLM range scientists to discuss the implementation of Secretary Babbitt's range reform program. Improved guidelines for riparian and upland grazing were offered at the meeting, though approval of *continued on page 5*

## Wilderness Trivia Question

What wild places were not named for the current *Wilderness Record* editor?

Answer on page 7



## Logging Rider

# Final reflections on fighting the logging rider in California's forests

By Ryan Henson and Paul Spitler

The logging rider of 1995-1996 was, without a doubt, the greatest threat to California's public forests since the logging frenzy of the late 1980s. After wreaking much havoc, it finally expired on December 31. We did not mourn its passing on New Year's eve.

The rider exempted over 250 logging projects in California's national forests (and hundreds more in other states) from environmental laws and citizen challenges. A small handful of groups and individuals battled these projects by appealing to the court of public opinion since we could not appeal to a court of law.

As the California Wilderness Coalition and Western Ancient Forest Campaign's principle anti-rider organizers in California, and as the day-to-day directors of the California Stop the Rider campaign, we want to take a moment to reflect on the rider's impacts and thank the many folks who worked so hard for California's forests.

### What was won and lost

California activists had almost no legal means of stopping logging rider projects. Despite this, over ninety sales were stopped or greatly altered. In all, thirty-seven roadless areas and thousands of acres of old growth forest were saved through public pressure on the Clinton administration and the Forest Service.

Given their limited time and resources, conservation activists were forced to prioritize which sales they would oppose as the flood of projects began in late 1995. At a

**While the rider's legacy will live on in polluted streams, eroded hillsides, and stumps, the rider inadvertently has left a more positive legacy by teaching us to seek out new allies at every opportunity and mobilize politicians, the press, and average citizens as often as possible.**

minimum, activists tried to defend all old growth, roadless areas, and other sensitive areas threatened by the rider. Unfortunately, while we are confident that all roadless area sales were identified and fought, dozens of projects in ancient forests were never identified and opposed due to a severe shortage of activists in many forests, poor communication among activists in some regions, and the

great speed (and often, great secrecy) with which the Forest Service planned and approved many rider projects. Too often, sales were planned, approved, and sold before conservation activists even heard about them.

### Public outreach

The public pressure that stopped many sales was

asserted primarily through the media and through letters, calls, and faxes from concerned citizens. Over the past year, for example, four stories regarding the rider's impact on California's forests ran in nationwide magazines, nine in the Associated Press and other national wire services, four in nationwide television stations, eleven on regional television stations, fifty-two in regional newspapers, and twenty-five on regional radio stations. In addition, sixteen editorials and opinion pieces from California activists were printed against the rider, and California activists contributed to two full-page ads in the *New York Times*. In addition, California activists held three protests, gave nearly thirty speeches, convinced eleven municipalities and professional associations to pass resolutions against the rider, convinced members of Congress to write fourteen "dear colleague" letters or letters to the White House, and mailed, faxed, and e-mailed forty-seven alerts to thousands of people.

While the rider's legacy will live on in polluted streams, eroded hillsides, and stumps, the rider inadvertently has left a more positive legacy by teaching us to seek out new allies at every opportunity and mobilize politicians, the press, and average citizens as often as possible.

### California's forest defenders

Many people and organizations deserve enormous credit for helping defend California wild areas threatened by the rider. In particular, Ned Boyer, Steve Graves, Bill Corcoran, Joan Reiss, Marge Sill, Lori Saldana, Patti Laursen (and the rest of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Ancient Forest Subcommittee), Jim Eaton, Herb Walker, Hans Hemann, Joe Fontaine, Dick Kunstman, John Buckley, Linda Blum, James Woods, Carl Gustafson, Jim Pentrack, Joseph and Susan Bower, Larry Glass, Tim McKay, Connie Stewart, Steve Hopcraft, Don Morris, Ellen and David Drell, Barbara Boyle, Frannie Hoover, Vicki Hoover, Fred Beddall (and the rest of the Sierra Club Bay Chapter Ancient Forest Subcommittee), Jim Jontz, Dean Rimmerman, Anthony Ambrose, Josh Brown, Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, Representative Pete Stark, Representative George Brown, Representative

George Miller, Representative Ron Dellums, Representative Vic Fazio, Representative Elizabeth Furse, Representative Tom Campbell, Kate Cox, Bruce Campbell, Lisa Jean, Bronwyn Hughes, Kathy Brennan, Steve Evans, Debbie Waldear, Pat Grivetti, Lauri Cooper, Lora Kindsvater, Ginger Gallup, Charlie Little, Victor Menotti, Jenny Miller, David Orr, Louis Blumberg, Jay Watson, John Leary, Steve Volker, Kristen Sykes, Canyon Fred, John Vigrain, Steve Holmer, Mark Capitolo, Fraser Shilling, Michael Passoff, Andrew Malk, Randi Spivak, Michael Shellenberger, Howard J. Whitaker, Josh Kaufman, Gary and Betty Ball, Karen Pickett, Laurel Ames, and the late Luis Ireland.

In addition, we would like to thank the El Bosque Pumalin Foundation for their generous advice and financial support for our

anti-rider efforts. If it had not been for them paying the phone, travel, paper, and other bills, few wild areas in California would have been spared the chainsaw. We would also like to thank the many sympathetic journalists, government officials, and yes, even Forest Service employees who must remain anonymous. They know who they are. We would also like to thank the folks we may have inadvertently failed to thank above (our apologies), as well as the thousands of people who called, faxed, e-mailed, protested, and generally agitated on behalf of our forests. They have proven, once again, that people can make a difference if they work hard enough.

Lastly, we would like to offer special thanks to Felice Pace of the Klamath Forest Alliance for his sage advice, strength, and dogged perseverance. The Klamath National Forest was attacked more than any other forest in California under the rider, yet Felice had the will and tenacity to fight back despite having kids to raise, soccer to coach, and an ailing mother to tend to.

On a personal note, fighting the rider was truly the most trying, tiring, and, frankly, depressing conservation battle we have ever engaged in. The only thing that kept us going was our love for the forests and the support of family and friends, especially our friends in the conservation community. We would like to thank all of you for the encouragement you offered over the last year.

Ryan Henson is the Conservation Associate for CWC. Paul Spitler is the California Organizer for the Western Ancient Forest Campaign.



## End-of-Year Report

# Adopt-A-Wilderness brings wildland activism to the people

By Ryan Henson

For far too long public lands management has been the almost exclusive province of professional conservationists, scientists, lawyers, and government bureaucrats. At the same time, many conservation groups which formerly encouraged their members to become public lands activists have stopped doing so or no longer have the staff and resources to recruit and train new activists. As a result, citizens seeking to become active stewards of their public lands face an intimidating wall of jargon-laden literature, over-worked and under-staffed conservation groups, and unresponsive government bureaucracies. Over time, many potential activists become disenchanted and lose interest.

This is unfortunate given that the ranks of California's public lands defenders are thin and overburdened. Most conservationists agree that new recruits bearing fresh ideas, innovative strategies, and energy and enthusiasm are sorely needed to expand and bolster the ranks of active guardians. This is where California Wilderness Coalition's (CWC) Adopt-a-Wilderness program comes in.

Through the Adopt-a-Wilderness program we recruit and train people who care about wild areas to become public land guardians. Guardians are recruited at rallies, conferences, meetings of environmental groups, college campuses, churches, community centers, and other places where potentially interested people may congregate, as well as through environmental publications and other media.

A special emphasis is placed on recruiting citizen guardians who live in the region they choose to protect. Not only does this make field work more convenient, but

it also increases citizen activism and involvement in California's rural areas so that public lands management decisions are not exclusively debated and decided in the urban power centers of San Francisco, Sacramento, and Washington, D.C.

Through our Adopt-a-Wilderness program, we train people in weekend workshops or smaller sessions to become directly involved in the full range of activist work. Training sessions are free and held at inexpensive, accessible venues such as campgrounds or the homes of activists. Adopt-a-Wilderness participants acquire the following skills and information through the weekend workshops and subsequent contact with CWC staff:

- Basic wild land ecology
- How development activities affect ecosystem health
- Basic federal environmental law and policy
- How to acquire information from federal land management agencies
- How to interpret and respond to agency proposals
- How to educate elected officials and other key decision makers
- How to engage the media
- How to educate and organize the public

The weekend workshops and other training sessions are held in the field, giving potential guardians the opportunity to see pristine wild areas and devastated ecosystems first-hand. It is our experience that potential guardians become inspired to act when they personally connect with wild ecosystems—especially when these wild lands are threatened with destruction.

CWC works closely with public lands guardians to answer questions and provide guidance and direction at every opportunity. The goal of the program is to recruit and train twenty guardians per national forest or Bureau of Land Management district by the end of 1998, with a special emphasis on currently undefended or under-defended areas of public land. We encourage guardians to cooperatively share tasks amongst themselves so that no one person becomes overburdened. CWC facilitates communication between guardians through our newsletter, electronic mail, periodic meetings, and other means to ensure that their energy is efficiently and effectively used doing the work they enjoy the most. For example, some activists may want to work exclusively to educate the media, politicians, and the public about their adopted area of public land, while others may want to spend all of their time in the field reviewing proposed logging, mining, grazing, and other projects and formulating responses.

The Adopt-a-Wilderness program offers a real opportunity to both empower citizens and increase protection for California's public lands. We hope that, over time, the currently overburdened activist network will be strengthened and expanded, and the public, press, politicians, and federal land management agencies will be more likely than ever before to hear and respond to our messages.

One-day indoor workshops are held monthly, and two-day sessions (with one day in the field) will begin in April and continue for as long as the weather permits (these sessions will be advertised in the *Wilderness Record*). Call Ryan Henson at (916) 758-0380 for details.

## 1996 Financial Statement: breaking new ground

The California Wilderness Coalition had a watershed year in 1996. For the first time, both our income and expenses surpassed \$100,000.

### Income

The Coalition's income for 1996 was \$134,086. For the first time, foundation grants exceeded renewals and donations. This total was skewed for several reasons:

- \$43,500 was donated for the campaign to stop the salvage rider, with most of that money passed on to other organizations, paying for a public opinion poll, and hiring temporary staff; and
- \$10,000 was received in the final days of 1996 from the Mennen Environmental Foundation to fund Adopt-a-Wilderness work in 1997.

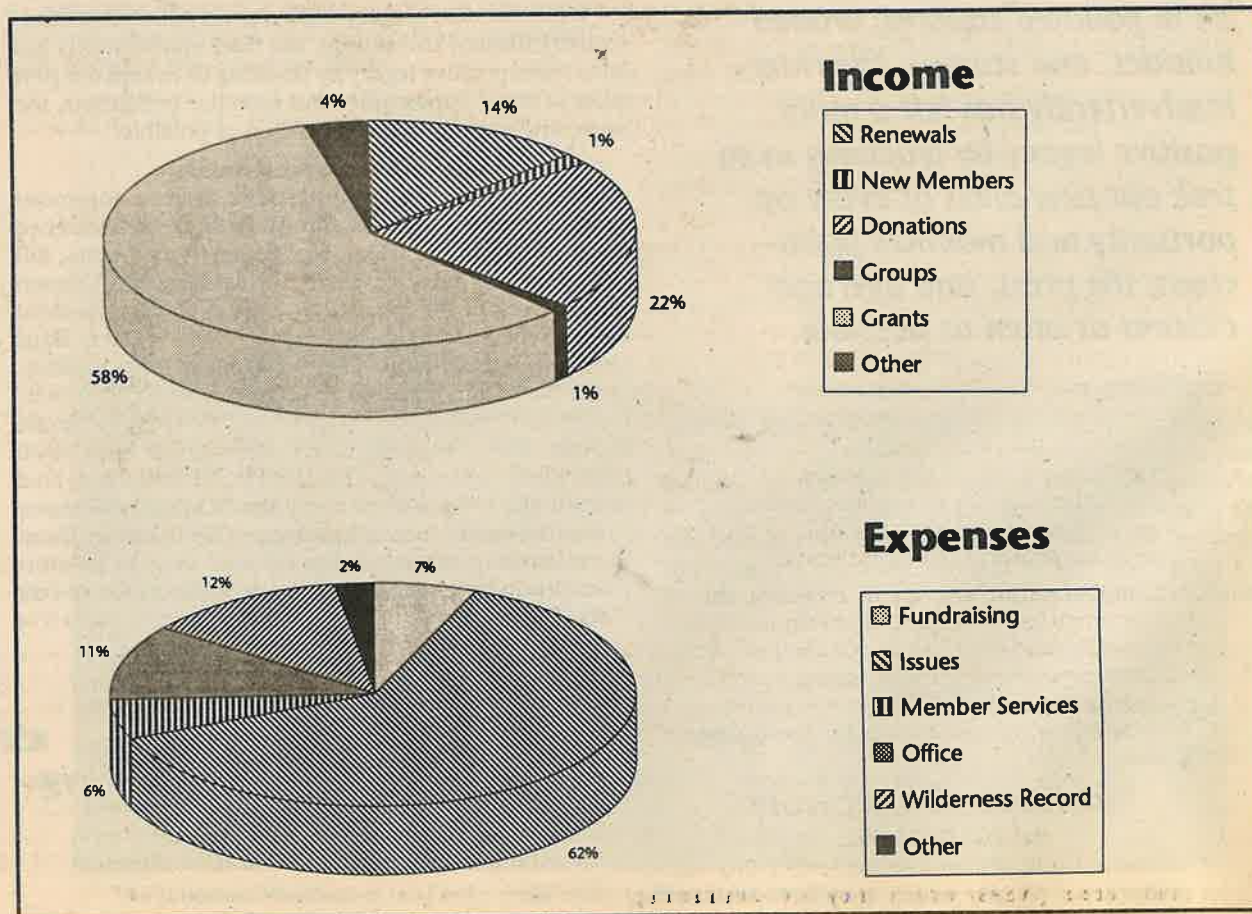
The "other" category includes income from business sponsors, subscriptions, sales, and reimbursements.

### Expenses

The majority of the Coalition's \$120,798 in expenses for 1996 went on wilderness issues, much of it for the campaign to stop the salvage rider.

The printing, distribution, and staff of the *Wilderness Record* consumed 12 percent of our income. Fundraising and membership services total 18 percent. Our office expenses seem high at 11 percent, but that is because we do not break down our rent, basic telephone costs, and copying into our other expense categories.

Income exceeded expenses by over \$13,000, but as explained above, most of that is due to a \$10,000 grant received at the very end of 1996.





## End-of-Year Report

# The Wildlands Project: Putting the pieces together

By Kathy Brennan

For the last three years the California Wilderness Coalition (CWC) has been California's contact office for The Wildlands Project, whose mission is to protect what remains of wild North America and to restore native biodiversity through the creation of a system of connected reserves based on principles of conservation biology.

California is at a critical juncture right now. As the state's population continues to increase so too does the pressure to use wild lands for resource extraction and development. If we are to prevent untimely human-caused extinction of wild species and the destruction of irreplaceable habitats, we must ensure that biological processes, such as the interaction between predators and prey or pollinators and their plants, are allowed to shape the land and the organisms that inhabit it. Historically, the preservation of land as wilderness was based mostly on its aesthetic and recreational value. While this has certainly protected some critical habitat, much more remains vulnerable and unprotected.

In California, the most biologically diverse state in the nation and home to a wealth of endemic species (endemics are species that are adapted to the unique local conditions of a particular area and are not found anywhere else in the world), many of the ecosystems that define the state are critically endangered. Thus the survival of endemic species is dependent upon preservation of the entire local ecosystem. In California, many of our most unique vegetation types are seriously threatened with destruction. For example, the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project report identifies oak woodland communities as "the most vul-

nerable of the widespread vegetation types as a result of greater access by humans and their continuing potential for urban development." Less than one percent of oak woodlands in the Sierra foothills is legally protected.

California needs a more diverse range of protected wilderness in order to preserve and protect its ecological diversity. The Wildlands Project seeks to protect and connect more wilderness across more of the state.

CWC is working towards this goal by coordinating The Wildlands Project in California. Currently we are planning meetings to be held in bioregions around the state. Our tentative plan is to hold an informal introductory meeting, followed by a mapping meeting in each region. We are currently in the process of building a digital map database, using ArcView, a Geographic Information System (GIS) software program that will enable us to visually display the relationships between the ecology and geography of land in California.

We welcome the participation of interested groups and individuals. For more detailed information or specifics on meetings in your area, you can contact us at the CWC office.

*Kathy Brennan is the Wildlands Project Coordinator for CWC.*



The Wildlands Project seeks to connect threatened wild areas, like the oak in a riparian forest pictured above, through core reserves, corridors and buffer zones.  
Photo by Mark J. Palmer

## End-of-Year Report

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these standards is ultimately up to the resource advisory councils (RACs) in each BLM district. Once approved by the RACs, the range reform standards and guidelines will then be sent to the Department of the Interior where they will be subjected to an environmental review and public comment. We urged the BLM to adopt strong grazing reform guidelines in its Range Reform Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

We opposed Senator Peter Domenici's Livestock Grazing Act which would end public involvement in public lands livestock grazing management, drastically reduce environmental protections, and make grazing the dominant use of much of our BLM and Forest Service lands. Within three months, CWC also opposed three riders attached to House and Senate appropriations bills which were very similar to the Domenici bill. The so-called Gingrich grazing bill, which was supposed to be a Republican compromise between even more extreme proposals, died along with all of the other attempts to turn public lands over to corporate ranching interests.

CWC supported an attempt to repeal of the 1872 mining law which forces the federal government to allow companies with valid claims to develop mines on public land. These companies often make immense profits while only compensating the federal government at pennies on the dollar and leaving reclamation for the taxpayers to worry about.

### Individual district work

#### Bakersfield District:

CWC urged the BLM to protect the Section 202 wilderness study areas (WSAs) which they are considering

releasing for mining, road construction, and other uses. These WSAs are in some cases adjacent to Forest Service roadless areas or wilderness areas. We filed an official appeal of the agency's proposal in December. We also opposed illegal road construction through the San Benito Study Area.

#### California Desert District:

CWC opposed plans to develop artificial water sources for non-native game birds in the Golden Valley Wilderness. The Coalition also submitted comments on a proposed coordinated resource management plan for the Colorado River region. The plan is designed to protect and restore riparian vegetation, combat off-road vehicle (ORV) trespass into wilderness areas and other sensitive lands, remove mining debris and other industrial waste, and improve cooperation between California and Arizona's local, state, and federal officials.

CWC endorsed efforts by the BLM and the National Park Service to increase protection for the desert tortoise by banning cross-country off-road vehicle travel and instituting other necessary measures in the northeastern Colorado Desert.

CWC staff members toured the boundaries of several wilderness areas to examine management problems associated with implementing the California Desert Protection Act.

We joined the coalition of groups opposing the proposed Ward Valley Nuclear Waste Facility. Ward Valley is situated between the Old Woman Mountains, Turtle Mountains, and Stepladder Mountains wilderness areas. We urged Congress to reject the dump proposal.

The Coalition wrote a Wilderness Record alert about a proposed wilderness management plan for the Bright Star, Sacatar Trail, Owens Peak, Chimney Peak, Kiavah, and Domeland Additions wilderness areas. We also submitted comments on the plan.

CWC alerted its members through a *Wilderness Record* article and urged them to oppose the proposed Imperial Mine project in eastern Imperial County. The proposed strip mine is less than two miles away from the Indian Pass and Picacho Peak wilderness areas, and less than a dozen miles away from the Colorado River.

#### Susanville District:

CWC attended an East Lassen Ecosystem Management Plan meeting. The East Lassen Plan will address grazing, fire management, wildlife habitat restoration, sensitive plants, wilderness study area protection, and other critical issues. The plan is engendering a great deal of opposition from a few powerful members of the Modoc County ranching community.

#### Ukiah District:

We strongly opposed Representative Frank Riggs' Headwaters Forest Act. The Act proposed to create a King Range Wilderness (smaller than the area recommended by the BLM for wilderness status), allow the BLM to trade the value of the Elkhorn Timber Sale in the Cahto Peak area for forested public land elsewhere, and trade forested BLM lands in the Arcata Resource Area for the Headwaters Forest. Worst of all, the Act requires that fifty percent of the old-growth forest in the southern Six Rivers and southern Shasta-Trinity national forests be logged within nine years as an "experiment" to determine the effects of

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## Wilderness News

### End-of-year report

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such logging upon old-growth dependant species. We also wrote an article on the bill for the *Wilderness Record* and signed on to a letter from several conservation groups opposing the legislation. We also successfully urged the Ukiah District RAC to oppose the legislation. The bill died on the House floor.

Ryan Henson and CWC Board Member Steve Evans served on the Ukiah District RAC. CWC also nominated Dan Weaver of the Mattole Watershed Restoration Council to a term on the RAC. The RAC is charged with advising the BLM on range reform and other critical issues. At the September RAC meeting, the council finalized its grazing reform guidelines, which include improved riparian, wild-life, soil, and plant protections. This consensus range reform plan capped months of often grueling negotiations. The RAC's guidelines will be crafted into official BLM policy this year.

CWC issued a *Wilderness Record* alert urging our members to write letters supporting the BLM's land acquisition program along the upper Sacramento River. Tehama County, which at one time fully supported the BLM's campaign to acquire 40,000 acres of land along the river, was balking at the property tax losses it would incur. On the other hand, as the BLM concentrates its holdings in some areas and liquidates them in others, Tehama County will have less public land after the acquisition program is completed. In addition, money from tourism should far exceed the few thousand dollars annually the county will lose in tax revenue. In the end, the county failed to oppose the land swap.

### The Barkley salvage sale: a case study in stopping lawless logging

By Ryan Henson

In May of 1996, the Clinton administration cancelled the Barkley salvage sale in the Lassen National Forest. This was delightful news for those activists who worked long and hard to save a large portion of the 9,700-acre Polk Springs Roadless Area, which is adjacent to the Ishi Wilderness. The Barkley sale was the first logging project authorized under the salvage rider to be halted in response to public protest.

Since the salvage rider blocked citizen appeals and limited almost all judicial review of Forest Service salvage sales, there was little hope initially that this devastating project could be stopped. Scores of letters from outraged citizens, intense lobbying and a media campaign accomplished what appeals and lawsuits normally could have.

The Polk Springs Roadless Area contains many critical old-growth forest groves and several pristine streams, including Deer Creek, which, along with Mill Creek to the north, hosts the best remaining chinook salmon and steelhead habitat in the Sacramento River watershed.

Thanks to an environmental letter writing campaign, the Barkley sale was temporarily shelved in 1995. Unfortunately, Representative Wally Herger's demand

that the sale go forward at all costs breathed new life into the project.

With less than two weeks' notice of the sale's revival, conservationists launched another letter writing campaign. The Clinton administration was bombarded with faxes and phone calls. Vivid photographs of the area were distributed to the media.

That afternoon the phone began to ring off the hook at the California Wilderness Coalition (CWC). The first call was from a reporter who informed us that "you people have started a war" in Washington between the Forest Service and the Clinton administration over the Barkley sale. About an hour later, calls came in telling us that the sale had been withdrawn on orders from Washington. CWC, the conservation community, and concerned citizens did the nearly impossible: they halted a timber sale that was shielded from all environmental laws, and whose backers had the full weight of the Forest Service, the timber industry and their friends in Congress behind them.

Because of the dedication of those who called and wrote, the haunting call of the pileated woodpecker will still echo through the Polk Springs Roadless Area, and Deer Creek's threatened salmon and steelhead will face one less hurdle in their desperate struggle against extinction.

## Headwaters swap could jeopardize public lands

continued from page 1

by land trades in recent years. For example, many thousands of acres in the Trinity Alps Wilderness and Granite Chief Wilderness were acquired by trades, and a large trade acquiring private lands in the Grouse Lakes area and along the North Fork American Wild River in the Tahoe National Forest should be completed this year. Because increasing appropriations for land acquisition will be very difficult, land trades may be even more important in the future.

There is an abundance of important private inholdings that could potentially be acquired by land trades. The Wilderness Land Trust has recently identified a total of 27,600 acres of private lands inside California national forest wilderness areas. There are thousands of acres more along wild and scenic Rivers and in national forest areas that are not specially designated but are important for wildlife habitat and recreation. A 1990 summary prepared for the Planning and Conservation League's "Twenty-First Century Study" recommended acquisition of about 260,000 acres of private lands in California's national forests.

Two developments are encouraging to activists who prefer purchase of the Headwaters lands—Maxxam prefers selling their lands to trading them, and Senator Dianne Feinstein, who has been heavily involved in the Headwaters negotiations, has stated her discomfort with disposing of "the public's assets" to acquire Headwaters.

Environmentalists who are concerned about trading away public lands to acquire Headwaters lands can state this concern and others by commenting on the scope of the EIS/EIR being prepared for the project. Stating that an alternative which does not trade away Forest Service and BLM lands should be an effective expression of your concerns about trading away public land.

#### What you can do:

Send a letter to the Headwaters Project Office. Letters must be received by February 10. They should be addressed to Bruce Halstead, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1125 16th Street, Room 209, Arcata, CA 95521. Also write a letter to Senator Feinstein (U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510). Points to make in your letters:

- BLM and national forest lands should not be traded away to acquire Headwaters lands. Purchase of the lands is a better use of federal funds.
  - All the ancient forest land in the Headwaters region should be acquired, not just the 7,000 acres being offered.
- John Moore is an activist with the Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club.*



The proposed Headwaters land swap could make it difficult for the BLM to acquire wild lands in the King Range Natl. Conservation Area, shown here. Photo by Carl A. Zichella



# Wilderness Forum

## Letters

### Wilderness fees: a price too high

**T**he new plan of allowing federal land management agencies to collect user fees (eighty percent of which would go to the area requiring the fee) to pay for the cost of operating and maintaining national parks and wilderness areas may at first look good, but is deceptive. This is an ill advised proposal. To make the nation's parks and preserved wilderness areas a money making venture is dangerous. When these areas become a means of income it fosters a reductive notion of wilderness as a commodity rather than a sacred trust and privatizes a public treasure. It makes wilderness a business in place of a public responsibility. Care of the wilderness is a duty and a service, it belongs to everyone and must be supported by everyone. This scheme is dangerously exclusive. It denies access to a public resource to those of lower income. It starts a trend and deepens the division of those with and without means.

Establishing the national park system and other wilderness areas has been an amazing achievement. To make it a money making venture fails all those who dedicated their lives to preserve areas of splendor for the wonderment of all for generations to come. In short, some things are more important than making money at every turn. This is public federal land and should be maintained by the federal government. One of the few things my taxes go to that I can feel good about is the national wilderness system. With this new fee structure we pay more to see the wilderness directly yet our public tax will remain the same.

I'm sure it's been argued by some that those who use these areas should pay for them. This is a misdirected argument. My taxes pay for many things I neither use nor support, some of which I strongly oppose yet I have to pay for them anyway. Wilderness is important and worthy of our nation's support whether individuals take an opportunity to visit or not. The proper management of these areas is essential to the environmental health of the country. National parks and wilderness areas provide healthy ecological systems for everyone.

The instigation of a backcountry permit fee is a corruption of a good management idea. Wilderness permits were established to enable park personnel to monitor and control backcountry use. Even a small fee sets a precedent. No doubt this cost will increase until, like most

campgrounds, it will become un-affordable to low income people. The right to experience our national wild lands will be based on economic standing. When the fee becomes too high it will undermine the original purpose of the permit: to assist in the preservation of the backcountry by limiting the number of people in any area at any time, as more will simply ignore the quota system and go without a permit.

If future generations are to appreciate wilderness and support it, they must be able to see it and be educated about it. If the park becomes the exclusive playground of those with high income, it will be regarded with contempt by those excluded.

I can't help but reflect on the words of Josiah D. Whitney at the inception of Yosemite National Park. He feared "Yosemite, instead of being 'a joy forever', will become... a gigantic institution for fleecing the public. Instead of having every convenience for circulation in and about the park, free trails, roads and bridges, with every facility offered for the enjoyment of Nature in the greatest of her works, unrestrained except by the requirements of decency and order, the public will find, if the ownership of the park passes into private hands, that opportunity will be taken to levy toll at every point of view, on every trail on every bridge, and at every turning, while there will be no inducement to do anything for the public accommodation, except that which may be made immediately available as a new means of raising a tax on the unfortunate traveller."

The value of wilderness preservation is immeasurable. Wilderness is not merely a form of entertainment, it is a place of spiritual renewal—as necessary to the human spirit as air is to the body. Our culture talks a lot about values. Here we examine the value of wilderness, preserved for all in the national park system, a unique American invention and one of its finest. It seems we have lost sight of that value and are now reducing the value of wilderness to merchandising and profit. I fear our country is dangerously close to losing all values except its respect of money. Greed is a powerful and detrimental influence. To see it now creep into the small areas of national wilderness is heartbreaking.

Jeannie Dolan  
Carlsbad

### An open letter to friends of Judi Bari

*Editor's note: This message was originally sent by Ancient Circles. We know Judi Bari has a lot of friends out there, and hope many of you will be able to help out in this time of need.*

Greetings to all friends of the Earth,

Perhaps you have heard of the plight of our sister, Judi Bari, whose work has been the saving of the ancient redwood forests of Northern California. You may remember that in May of 1990 a car bomb detonated in the Subaru occupied by Judi and her fellow activist, Darryl Cherney. Judi was gravely injured, but has made a wondrous, though incomplete, recovery. At present she and Darryl are engaged in a court battle with the FBI, who have failed (refused?) to discover the bomber, after wasting considerable time on the assumption that Judi and Darryl bomber themselves.

Judi has recently discovered that she has cancer in her breast which has metastasized to her liver. Although she is presently continuing her work, her prognosis is that her life will be much shorter and suffering is likely to be great.

In the many years that the originators of this letter have known Judi, she has dedicated her life to the salvation of the ancient trees through her work with Earth

First! and other local environmental groups. Her two daughter, Lisa, 16 and Jessie, 11 are maturing into artists and activists in the midst of Judi's struggle.

Those of us who have not been on the front lines of environmental efforts owe a great debt to those who have. Every now and then an opportunity arises when we may make a difference from the comfort of our own lives.

Here is one such opportunity:

We are inviting you to contribute to Judi's life: her medical expenses, her personal comfort, the security of her family in the trying times ahead. Please consider donating from \$10 to \$1,000,000 (sliding scale) to:

Judi Bar Trust Fund  
c/o Mendocino Environmental Center  
106 W. Standley St.  
Ukiah, California 95482

All contributions to this fund will go towards Judi's personal expenses. No administrative fees will be taken from your donations.

Ann Weller and Diane Darling

## Calendar

**February 10:** Written comments due on the proposed Headwaters Forest land swap. See article on page 1.

**February 14-16:** Headwaters Forest Conference in Ashland, Oregon (not to be confused with the Headwaters Forest). This conference is the largest gathering of forest activists on the west coast and is guaranteed to stimulate both mind and body with presentations on everything from forest defense to water quality. Call Headwaters at (541) 482-4459 for more information on the conference, or Ryan Henson at CWC for carpool information from California.

**February 14-17:** An ESA strategy seminar and field study session on HCP's and Incidental Take Permits, "Getting to the Heart of the Matter" will be held by the Spirit of the Sage Council in the San Bernardino National Forest. Call Leeona Klippstein at (909) 422-1637 for more info.

**February 23:** California Ancient Forest Alliance meeting in Davis. Likely topics include the Sierra Nevada Campaign. Call Ryan Henson or Jim Eaton at (916) 758-0380 for more information.

**March 7-8:** Chico State Environmental Conference. Topics include forest and watershed protection and pollution. Call Jessica Rios at (916) 898-6701.

## Job Announcement

California Ancient Forest Alliance seeks Campaign Director for Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign. Guided by a steering committee, the Campaign Director will supervise staff, coordinate committees, develop and implement media plan, and administer the campaign. Dedication to conservation goals, excellent communication skills, community organizing, media experience, and ability to work with volunteers required. \$35,000-\$40,000/year DOE plus benefits. Send cover letter and resume by February 15 to Steve Evans, California Ancient Forest Alliance, c/o Friends of the River, 128 J Street, 2nd Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814. Fax (916) 442-3396.

## Wilderness Trivia Answer

**The Walker River (which recently reclaimed U.S. Highway 395) and Walker Pass were named by John C. Fremont to honor his guide, Joseph R. Walker**



## Coalition Member Groups

Ancient Forest Defense Fund; Branscomb Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club; Los Angeles Back Country Horsemen of CA; Springville Bay Chapter, Sierra Club; Oakland Bay Chapter Wilderness Subcommittee; S. F. California Alpine Club; San Francisco California Mule Deer Association; Lincoln California Native Plant Society; Sacramento Citizens for Better Forestry; Hayfork Citizens for Mojave National Park; Barstow Citizens for a Vehicle Free Nipomo Dunes; Nipomo

Committee to Save the Kings River; Fresno Conservation Call; Santa Rosa Davis Audubon Society; Davis Desert Protective Council; Palm Springs Desert Subcommittee, Sierra Club; San Diego

Desert Survivors; Oakland Eastern Sierra Audubon Society; Bishop Ecology Center; Berkeley Ecology Center of Southern California; L. A. El Dorado Audubon Society; Long Beach Friends Aware of Wildlife Needs (FAWN); Georgetown

Friends of Chinquapin, Oakland Friends of Plumas Wilderness; Quincy Friends of the Garcia (FROG); Point Arena Friends of the Inyo; Lone Pine Friends of the River; Sacramento Fund for Animals; San Francisco

Golden Gate Audubon Society; Berkeley Hands Off Wild Lands! (HOWL); Davis High Sierra Hikers Association; Truckee International Center for Earth Concerns; Ojai Kaweah Flyfishers; Visalia Keep the Sespe Wild Committee; Ojai Kern Audubon Society; Bakersfield Kern River Valley Audubon Society; Bakersfield Kern-Kaweah Chapter, Sierra Club; Bakersfield Klamath Forest Alliance; Etna League to Save Lake Tahoe; South Lake Tahoe Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club; Palo Alto

Los Angeles Audubon Society, West Hollywood Los Padres Chapter, Sierra Club Marble Mountain Audubon Society; Etna Marin Conservation League; San Rafael Mendocino Environmental Center; Ukiah Mendocino Forest Watch; Willits Mono Lake Committee; Lee Vining Mt. Shasta Area Audubon Society; Mt. Shasta Mountain Lion Foundation; Sacramento Native Habitat; Woodside Natural Resources Defense Council; S.F. NCRCC Sierra Club; Santa Rosa Nordic Voice; Livermore North Coast Center for Biodiversity & Sustainability; Leggett Northcoast Environmental Center; Arcata

People for Nipomo Dunes Nat'l. Seashore; Nipomo Peppermint Alert; Porterville Placer County Cons. Task Force; Newcastle Planning & Conservation League; Sac. Range of Light Group, Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club; Mammoth Lakes Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club; Santa Rosa The Red Mountain Association; Leggett Resource Renewal Institute; San Francisco San Diego Chapter, Sierra Club; San Diego San Fernando Valley Audubon Society; Van Nuys Save Our Ancient Forest Ecology (SAFE); Modesto Sequoia Forest Alliance; Kernville Seven Generations Land Trust; Berkeley Seventh Generation Fund; Arcata Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund; S. F. Sierra Nevada Alliance; South Lake Tahoe Sierra Treks; Ashland, OR Smith River Alliance; Trinidad Soda Mtn. Wilderness Council; Ashland, OR South Fork Mountain Defense; Weaverville South Yuba River Citizens League; Nevada City Tulare County Audubon Society; Visalia Tule River Conservancy; Porterville U.C. Davis Environmental Law Society Ventana Wildlands Group; Santa Cruz Western States Endurance Run; S. F. The Wilderness Land Trust; Carbondale, CO The Wilderness Society; San Francisco Wintu Audubon Society; Redding Yolano Group, Sierra Club; Davis Yolo Environmental Resource Center; Davis

**"For our own time, let us vow that  
no more standing redwoods be cut,  
not on public or private land. No  
more big trees anywhere. Leave  
them be"**

— Michael Frome, from the  
forward to *The Big Outside*.

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☐ Here is a special contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help the Coalition's work.

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